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Board of Commissioners Policy

Street Lighting Policy

Adopted May 4, 1994
Updated and Adopted June 4, 2003
Updated and Adopted October 3, 2012
Updated and Adopted November 6, 2013

Objective: To provide an orderly process for the installation of street lighting in existing subdivisions and areas that is adequate for safety and convenience while at the same time avoiding objectionable and excessive lighting.

General: In all existing subdivisions and areas with underground power, the electric power lines for street lighting shall be located underground. In existing subdivisions and areas with overhead wiring, new streetlights may be attached to existing poles only if the pole to be used is in the proper location. If a new pole is required, the wiring to said pole must be underground. All lights shall be located on public rights-of-way maintained by the Town of Nags Head, unless alternate arrangements are agreed to by the Town. Streetlights should be placed at street intersections or street bends of sixty degrees or more. Streetlights may not be located closer than intervals of three hundred feet. Nothing in this policy, however, shall preclude the Town of Nags Head from installing street lighting at any location and of any available intensity where in the opinion of the Town Manager, such lighting is necessary for the public safety and convenience. In addition, in cases where commercial and residential areas adjoin, the Town Manager shall determine the lumens of intensity of streetlights to be placed in such adjoining areas.

New Residential Subdivisions: Streetlights shall be High Pressure Sodium (HPS) seventy (70) watt, five thousand (5,000) lumen lights, installed as per Section 38-156 of the Town Code of Ordinances. It shall be the Town's policy to assume the energy cost of streetlights installed in new subdivisions one year after their installation. It shall be the responsibility of the developer or the Property Owners Association to request in writing to the Town Manager, that the Town assume the energy cost of the streetlights one year after installation.

New Commercial Subdivisions: The street lighting policy in new commercial subdivisions shall be the same as in new residential subdivisions, except that the streetlights shall be a HPS one hundred and fifty (150) watt, fourteen thousand (14,000) lumen lights except where in the opinion of the Town Manager, a HPS one hundred (100) watt (8,000) lumen lights would be more appropriate in order to prevent excessive light in adjoining predominantly residential areas.

Responsible for Update: Public Works Director

Existing Residential Areas: In existing residential areas, streetlights are installed upon a petition basis. The number of property owners' signatures required on the petition depends upon the number of properties directly affected by the proposed streetlight(s). If the light is requested to be installed at an intersection, three of the four or two of the three property owners at the intersection as shown on the attached diagram will be required to sign the petition. The property owner adjoining the location where the light is to be erected must be one of the owners to sign. If the light is to be installed in mid-block, the light will be placed at a point between two lots and the owner of these two lots must sign the petition. In addition, at least fifty percent of the two or three lots directly across the street must also sign the petition. After receiving a petition requesting a streetlight with the required number of signatures and approved by the Town Manager, the petitioners will then be responsible for the installation and energy cost of the streetlight for the first year of operation. It shall be the Town's policy to assume the energy cost of streetlights installed by private property owners one year after their installation. It shall be the responsibility of the property owner to request in writing to the Town Manager, that the Town assume the energy cost of the streetlights one year after installation.

All new streetlights and lamps or fixtures that need replacement, will be a HPS seventy watt (70), five thousand (5,000) lumen lights installed at a mounting height of 10 feet if a new pole is installed.

Existing Commercial Areas: In existing commercial areas, streetlights are installed upon receipt of a petition signed by at least two directly affected property owners and approved by the Town Manager. All new streetlights and lamps or fixtures that need replacement, will be a HPS one hundred and fifty (150) watt, fourteen thousand (14,000) lumen lights and will be installed by the petitioner. The developer or property owner will be responsible for the energy cost of the streetlight for the first year of operation. The energy costs of the streetlights will be assumed by the Town one year after their installation. It shall be the responsibility of the developer or property owner to request in writing to the Town Manager, that the Town assume the energy cost of the streetlights one year after installation.

Special Street Lighting Areas: The following streets are designated as areas requiring special street lighting treatment and any streetlights installed at intersections or along these streets will be the designated intensity, notwithstanding the intensities enumerated above:

- Croatan Highway (US 158) – HPS 250 watt (250) 23,000 lumen lights at a mounting height of 35 – 40 feet. The fixture shall be a flat lens full cutoff light.
- Virginia Dare Trail (NC 12) – HPS one hundred (100) watt, eight thousand (8,000) lumen lights at a mounting height of 25 – 30 feet. Lights installed at pedestrian crossings shall be HPS one hundred and fifty watt (150), fourteen thousand (14,000) lumen lights at a mounting height of 25 – 30 feet.
- South Old Oregon Inlet Road (NC 1243) – Same as Virginia Dare Trail.

